



USAID
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GUINEA

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

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USAID's work in Guinea has greatly improved agricultural practices and forest management through various capacity-building measures. USAID is determined to maintain and build upon these successes, as they are vital for Guinea's economy and natural resource base, as well as for avoiding the effects of climate change.

Background. The West African country of Guinea has diverse agro-ecological areas ranging from coastal zones to forested regions to mountain ecosystems. Unsustainable intensification of agriculture, lack of economic alternatives in rural areas, and rapid population growth (exacerbated by refugee inflows) have contributed to indiscriminate tree felling, mining, shifts in cultivation, and overgrazing. USAID helps protect Guinea's fragile agro-ecological areas against further environmental degradation by building local capacity to manage forest and agricultural resources in a more sustainable manner. Protection of forests is beneficial to the climate because trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store carbon both above ground in their biomass and in the soils below. Support for increasingly sustainable agricultural practices helps maintain more organic matter, and therefore carbon, in the soils. This also means fewer greenhouse gases are emitted to the atmosphere, agricultural yields are improved, and poverty is reduced. Increasing opportunities for microenterprises provide alternatives to agriculture and non-sustainable forest utilization while increasing household incomes, thus reducing dependence on natural resources.

Sector-Specific Climate Change Activities. USAID has provided technical assistance to Guinea's National Directorate of Water and Forests (DNEF) in environmental assessment and sustainable forest management. Local nongovernmental organizations and villagers have also been trained in community forest management, village land use planning, sustainable agriculture, and enterprise development. As a result of such efforts, five reserved forests with a total area of more than 85,000 hectares are being managed more sustainably, with more than 100,000 hectares forecast to be under management by 2005.

Training and technical assistance has also resulted in improved management of five comanaged forest reserves. Comanagement is a major initiative within Guinea, empowering local communities to share with the DNEF the responsibilities for sustainable management of the forest reserves. Forest comanagement has led to reduced deforestation and forest degradation, improved protection of watersheds, and enhanced income-generating opportunities for local villagers.

USAID has also worked with the government to approve a Declaration of Policy on Land Tenure Security in Rural Areas. This declaration is an endorsement of the land use contract mechanism to enhance landowners' tenure security. Within a year of approval, USAID sponsored a national workshop on land tenure to revise the land

USAID's partners in climate change activities in Guinea include*:

- Government of Guinea Inter-Ministerial Land Code Committee
- National Directorate of Water and Forests (DNEF)
- World Bank

* Because partners change as new activities arise, this list of partners is not comprehensive.

code. The revisions are expected to lead to better land management in rural Guinea.

In addition, USAID is providing training and technical assistance to reduce slash-and-burn agriculture, improve crop yields, increase use of organic inputs, and promote reforestation. USAID also works with landowners and land users to develop contracts for impoverished marginalized peoples, thereby creating opportunities for longer-term, more sustainable investments in agricultural systems.

For more information on USAID's climate change activities in Guinea, visit USAID/Guinea's Mission Web site at:

- <http://www.usaid.gov/gn/>